

Message Text

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71

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /028 W

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R 161225Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 29

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, BBAK, BEXP, IR

SUBJ: DEMURRAGE CLAIMS AGAINST FTC

REF: TEHRAN 11211 AND PREVIOUS

1. RANKING OFFICER OF LARGE U.S. BANK, WHO ACCOMPANIED HIS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD ON CALL TO MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE ANSARY, TOLD EMBOFF IN CONFIDENCE THAT ANSARY, ON HIS OWN AND COMPLETELY OUT OF THE BLUE, BROUGHT UP MATTER OF DEMURRAGE CLAIMS AGAINST FTC. NEW YORK BANK IN QUESTION NOT INVOLVED IN BRANCH BANKING HERE NOR DOES IT REPRESENT ANY OF THE CLAIMANTS. OUR SOURCE COULD ONLY SPECULATE THAT ANSARY BROUGHT MATTER UP BECAUSE IT VERY MUCH ON HIS MIND.

2. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ANSARY SAID DEMURRAGE CHARGES WERE "TWICE AS HIGH AS THEY OUGHT TO BE." MINISTER WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE THOUGHT THAT SOME OF THE FIRMS ENTERED INTO CONTRACTS WITH GOI IN THE HOPE OF LANDING GREATER CONTRACTS AND THAT THEY ARE NOT ALL THAT AVERSE TO TAKING A LOSS ON THE PENDING CLAIMS. WHEN ASKED BY EMBOFF HOW SOURCE WOULD GAUGE LIKELIHOOD OF CLAIMS BEING PAID IN LIGHT OF ANSARY'S ATTITUDE, SOURCE REPLIED "I THINK YOU WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO GET YOUR MONEY."

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES ANSARY IS PROBABLY HAVING
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DIFFICULTY IN MEETING FTC'S REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS
WITH WHICH TO SETTLE THESE CLAIMS. DOUBTLESS GOI, IN-

CLUDING ANSARY, WOULD LIKE TO MOVE MATTER TOWARD PARTIAL
SETTLEMENT, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE HAZARDOUS TO
SAY THAT ANSARY'S VIEW GIVEN ABOVE IN FACT REPRESENTS HIS
FINAL JUDGMENT IN THE MATTER. NEVERTHELESS, THIS STRAW
IN THE WIND SUGGESTS THAT ARDUOUS PULLING AND HAULING ON
THESE CLAIMS STILL LIE AHEAD.
HELMS

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